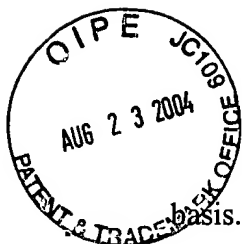


**RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT**  
United States Patent Application No. 09/981,024



**REMARKS**

The Examiner has rejected claims 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for insufficient antecedent basis. Applicants have amended claims 9-11 to correct typographical errors and thereby address the Examiner's rejection. In addition, Applicants have amended claim 34 to correct a typographical error so that the phrase " $0 < x > 0.5$ " now reads " $0 < x < 0.5$ ".

The Examiner indicates that he has objected to the drawings, but it does not appear that the Examiner has specifically set forth a basis for that objection. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner specify the objection to the drawings, if any, so that Applicants may address such objection.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in a form for allowance and request that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative if he believes that it would in any way facilitate prosecution of this application.

Dated: August 19, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.10**

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I hereby certify that this paper and all documents and any fee referred to herein are being deposited on the date indicated above with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10, postage prepaid and addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Louis A. Lofredo, Legal Assistant

8-19-04  
Date of Signature